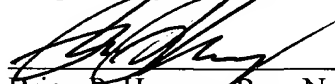


**REMARKS**

By the above amendment, new independent claim 24 is added. New claim 24 is similar to claim 1 except that the downcomer generally contains at least one packing between its upper portion and its lower portion. See, e.g., page 4, line 25 - page 5, line 29.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this response or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3402.

Respectfully submitted,



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